

Rouse

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them as I can," said Rouse.

According to Rouse, the preparation required to be a winner was not a light load to carry. Long hours of studying and physical training in addition to working her civilian job as a mechanical designer and being a married mother of two were the rule rather than exception.

"You just have to commit yourself 100 percent to the process. You have to commit to the training and you have to make your family and everyone else understand that you're going to train for this," said Rouse. "You've got to stay organized and you've got to stay committed. With two very small children at home that's very hard. Your entire family has to buy into what you're trying to do."

It is this commitment that Rouse referred to that ensured her victory and returned the title of TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year to the 100th Division, which was able to call the award home for four years straight, from 1995 to 1998. Rouse said the fact that the division once is once again able to boast the Army Reserve's best drill sergeant is one that makes her proud.

"It was great!" said Rouse. "Gen. Barron (former 100th Division commanding general) and Sgt. Maj. Clark (CSM of 100th Division's 7th Brigade) were there that day, and to see how excited they were when I won, made it that much better."

Not only did this award make Rouse proud but the entire 100th Division as well, according to Command Sgt. Maj. David Belcher, the 100th Division's top enlisted person.



MAJ. JERRY TRAYLOR/100th division pa

Sgt. 1st Class Rouse was named TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year. "You have to commit yourself 100 percent to the process," she said. "Your entire family has to buy into what you're trying to do."

"I'm ecstatic, we're very proud," said Belcher. "It definitely took a lot of dedication on her part...her work ethic is unmatched and it shows.

She's an excellent soldier and an excellent NCO, she trained hard and would accept nothing less than the best for herself."